



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/747,682	12/30/2003	Roy Ben-Yoseph	06975-541001/ Security 30	3174
26171	7590	06/11/2010	EXAMINER	
FISH & RICHARDSON P.C. P.O. BOX 1022 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022			TAHA, SHAQ	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2446	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			06/11/2010	ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

PATDOCTC@fr.com

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/747,682	<b>Applicant(s)</b> BEN-YOSEPH, ROY	
	<b>Examiner</b> SHAQ TAHA	<b>Art Unit</b> 2446	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 March 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 8, 10 - 14, 17 - 30, 35, 39 - 45, 47, and 49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 8, 10 - 14, 17 - 30, 35, 39 - 45, 47, and 49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)         | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This is a Non-final action for application number 10/747,682 based on after a Non-final filed on 03/01/2010. The original application was filed on 12/30/2003. Claims 1 – 8, 10 – 14, 17 – 30, 35, 39 – 45, 47, and 49 are currently pending and have been considered below. Claims 9, 15, 16, 31 – 34, 36, 37, 38, 46 and 48 have been canceled.

### **Response to Arguments**

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 – 8, 10 – 14, 17 – 30, 35, 39 – 45, 47, and 49 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### **Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112**

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Regarding claims 1, 23, and 45, the limitation determining that a person is known to the user based, at least in part, on one or more actions performed by the user on one or more messages received by the user from the person is vague and indefinite, wherein the examiner interprets the limitation as if the receiver of an email prints, moves, or opens the message for a predetermined time then the sender of the email is known and added to the buddy list.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103**

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action.

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims and 1 – 8, 10, 12 – 13, 17 – 30, 35, 39 – 45, 47, and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Friskel et al. (US 6,839,737), in view of Weeks et al. (US 2004/0054733)

Regarding claim 1 & 23 & 45, Friskel teaches a method of providing online presence information: maintaining, on one or more computer, a list of people that is known to a user, **[FIG. 6 illustrates an example of the contents of approved contacts file 116, which is the list of other members of messaging system 100 that have been selected by the sender using sender computer 106 as being approved contacts eligible to receive status information about the sender, wherein the contact list is maintained as shown in Fig. 1, Ref # 116, (Friskel et al., Col. 6, lines 28 - 35)],**

accessing, at one or more computer, the maintained list of people determined to be known to a user, **[Approved contacts file 116 is visible to the sender, but other**

Art Unit: 2446

information regarding such members is not accessible by the sender as shown in Fig. 1, Ref # 110 and 112 wherein a client contact list is shown, (Friskel et al., Col. 3, lines 56 – 60)],

accessing, at one or more computer, online presence information for the user, [Hidden contacts file 112 contains a list of messaging system members received from server 102 including the status information for each listed member as provided by server 102 as shown in Fig. 4, Ref # 114, (Friskel et al., Col. 4, lines 25 – 29)],

determining, at one or more computer, a potential receiver of the online presence information, [Hidden contacts file 112 corresponds to that portion of the members of messaging system 100 that have given the user of client computer 104 permission to receive their on-line status information as shown in Fig. 4 wherein the client as a potential receiver of the online presence of the contacts, (Friskel et al., Col. 3, lines 29 – 33)],

comparing, at one or more computer, the potential receiver to the accessed list to determine if the potential receiver is included on the list, [Visible contacts file 110 contains a list of aliases for those members of messaging system 100 that have been selected by the client user as being approved contacts eligible to receive status information about the client user as shown in Fig. 4, wherein the approved contact list has a potential receiver that is included on the list, (Friskel et al., Col. 3, lines 37 – 41)],

Art Unit: 2446

and determining, at one or more computer, whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver based on whether the potential receiver is included in the list, **[Approved contacts file 116 is stored on sender computer 106 and contains a list of aliases for members for which the sender using sender computer 106 has given permission to obtain on-line status information about the sender as shown in Fig. 5 wherein the approved contacts list and to communicate the online presence to the contact list, (Friskel et al., Col. 3, lines 50 – 55)],**

Friskel et al. fails to teach determining that a person is known to the user based, at least in part, on one or more actions performed by the user on one or more messages received by the user from the person, the actions including one or more of (1) saving a message from the person; (2) printing a message from the person; (3) moving a message from the person from a first folder to a second folder; and (4) leaving a message from the person open for a predetermined period of time,

Weeks et al. teaches the user removes an e-mail from the e-mail stop folder 104, **(Weeks et al., Paragraph 55)**, in order to add the user's address to the sender's address, **(Weeks et al., Paragraph 55)**,

Weeks et al. further teaches that in response to determining that the person is known to the user, adding the person to the maintained list, **[Fig. 9, Ref # 1408]**,

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Friskel et al. by determining that a person is known to the user based, at least in part, on one or more actions performed by the user on one or

Art Unit: 2446

more messages received by the user from the person, **(Weeks et al., Paragraph 55)**, in order to add the user's address to the sender's address, **(Weeks et al., Paragraph 55)**.

Regarding claim 2 & 24, Friskel teaches the method wherein determining whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver comprises determining to not communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver when the potential receiver is not included in the list, **[Fig. 4, is receiver is not on list, online presence won't be communicated]**.

Regarding claims 3 & 25, Friskel teaches the method wherein determining whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver comprises determining whether to communicate the online presence information to an instant messaging application of the potential receiver, **[Fig. 1, Ref # 108, wherein an E-mail server is equivalent to instant messaging]**.

Regarding claims 4 & 26, Friskel teaches the method wherein determining whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver comprises determining whether to display the online presence information on a web page, **[Fig. 3 shows an inbox which is a part of a webpage]**.

Regarding claims 5 & 27, Friskel teaches the method wherein determining whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver

Art Unit: 2446

comprises determining whether to display the online presence information in member search results, **[Fig. 3, Ref # 304, wherein the search result is in the inbox]**.

Regarding claims 6 & 28, Friskel teaches the method wherein determining whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver comprises determining whether to display the online presence information in a member profile, **[Fig. 4, Ref # 114]**.

Regarding claims 7 & 29, Friskel teaches the method wherein determining whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver comprises determining whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver when a request for online presence information is received from the potential receiver, **[Fig. 1, arrows 118 correspond to communication between client computer 104 and server 102 for requesting and providing member information for hidden contacts file 112]**.

Regarding claims 8 & 30, Friskel teaches the method wherein determining whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver comprises determining whether to communicate the online presence information to the potential receiver absent a request from the potential receiver for the online presence information, **[Fig. 4, Ref #114 wherein online status is available without request]**.



Art Unit: 2446

Regarding claim 10, Friskel teaches the method of claim 1 wherein the actions performed by the user on one or more messages received by the user from the person include saving an e-mail received from the person, **[The saved mail folder 420 represents a storage area in which the e-mail program stores e-mail selected by the user for storage in a folder other than the inbox folder 418, (Paragraph 29)]**.

Regarding claims 12, 21, and 43, Friskel teaches a method of providing online presence information: maintaining, on one or more computer, a list of people that is known to a user, **(Friskel et al., Col. 6, lines 28 - 35)**,

Friskel et al. fails to teach that the actions performed by the user on one or more messages received by the user from the person include moving an e-mail from a first folder to a second folder,

Weeks et al. teaches the user removes an e-mail from the e-mail stop folder 104, **(Weeks et al., Paragraph 55)**, in order to add the user's address to the sender's address, **(Weeks et al., Paragraph 55)**,

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Friskel et al. by determining that a person is known to the user based, at least in part, on one or more actions performed by the user on one or more messages received by the user from the person, **(Weeks et al., Paragraph 55)**, in order to add the user's address to the sender's address, **(Weeks et al., Paragraph 55)**.

Regarding claim 13 & 35, The method of claim 12 wherein the first folder is an inbox folder and the second folder is a folder other than a delete folder or a spam folder, **[Friskel et al., Fig. 3, Ref # 312, 314]**

Regarding claim 18 & 40, Friskel teaches that the method determining that a person is known to the user based, at least in part, on one or more actions performed by the user on one or more messages received by the user from the person includes detecting user actions that mitigate against factors that otherwise are used to infer a person is known to the user, **[Fig 6, Ref # 116]**.

Regarding claim 19 & 41, Friskel teaches the method wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to label a communication from the person as spam, **[Fig. 5, Ref # 110]**.

Regarding claim 17, 39, 47, and 49, the method wherein determining that a person is known to the user based, at least in part, on one or more actions performed by the user on one or more messages received by the user from the person further comprises inferring that a person is known to the user, wherein inferring comprises: accessing a contact list of the user to determine a first contact on the user's contact list, **[Fig. 4 shows a contact list wherein Sue is the first contact]**,

and accessing a contact list of the first contact to determine a second contact on the first contact's contact list, **[Fig. 4 shows a contact list wherein Sue is the first contact and Sue has her own contact list]**,

Regarding claim 22, 44, the method further comprising: enabling the user to expressly designate a person as known to the user, **[Fig. 4 shows an approved list of contacts that are designated as known to the user]**,

and adding the designated person to the list, **[Fig. 4 shows an added person to the list of contacts that are designated as known to the user]**.

Regarding claims 20 and 42, Friskel teaches a method of providing online presence information: maintaining, on one or more computer, a list of people that is known to a user, **(Friskel et al., Col. 6, lines 28 - 35)**,

Friskel et al. fails to teach that the method of claim 18 wherein the user actions comprise the user taking steps to add a person to a blacklist,

Weeks et al. teaches that the user selects the unsolicited e-mail and places it in the e-mail stop folder 104, **(Weeks et al., Paragraph 19)**, in order to prevent delivery of any further e-mail sent to the user address from the sender, **(Weeks et al., Paragraph 19)**,

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Friskel et al. by determining that a person is known to the user based, at least in part, on one or more actions performed by the user on one or

Art Unit: 2446

more messages received by the user from the person, **(Weeks et al., Paragraph 19)**, in order to prevent delivery of any further e-mail sent to the user address from the sender, **(Weeks et al., Paragraph 19)**,

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Friskel et al. (US 6,839,737), in view of Weeks et al. (US 2004/0054733) and further in view of Koch et al. (US 2005/0086305)

Regarding claims 11, the modified Friskel teaches a method of providing online presence information: maintaining, on one or more computer, a list of people that is known to a user, **(Friskel et al., Col. 6, lines 28 - 35)**,

The modified Friskel et al. fails to teach determining that a person is known to the user based, at least in part, on one or more actions performed by the user on one or more messages received by the user from the person,

Koch et al. teaches that the method of claim 1 wherein the positive actions performed by the user on one or more messages received by the user from the person include printing an e-mail received from the person, **(Koch et al., Paragraph 9)**, in order to provides the capability to create, share and modify "common notes", **(Koch et al., Paragraph 10)**,

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the modified Friskel et al. by printing an e-mail received

Art Unit: 2446

from the person, **(Koch et al., Paragraph 9)**, in order to provides the capability to create, share and modify "common notes", **(Koch et al., Paragraph 10)**.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Friskel et al. (US 6,839,737), in view of Weeks et al. (US 2004/0054733) and further in view of Caughey et al. (US 2003/0212745)

Regarding claim 14, the modified Friskel teaches a method of providing online presence information: maintaining, on one or more computer, a list of people that is known to a user, **(Friskel et al., Col. 6, lines 28 - 35)**,

the modified Friskel et al. fails to teach determining that the actions performed by the user on one or more messages received by the user from the person includes leaving an e- mail from the person open for a predetermined period of time,

Caughey et al. teaches if a tag in the form of a "new houses on the market" is announced, the user will probably be more interested and save the message for future reading or even open the message as soon as it is received, **(Caughey et al., Paragraph 87)**, in order classify the message as legitimate vs. junk, **(Caughey et al., Paragraph 9)**,

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the modified Friskel et al. by including that the actions performed by the user on one or more messages received by the user from the person includes leaving an e- mail from the person open for a predetermined period of time,

Art Unit: 2446

**(Caughey et al., Paragraph 87)**, in order classify the message as legitimate vs. junk,  
**(Caughey et al., Paragraph 9).**

### **Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shaq Taha whose telephone number is 571-270-1921. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5pm Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff Put can be reached on 571-272-6798.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free)

/S. T./

Examiner, Art Unit 2446

/Jeffrey Pwu/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2446

Application/Control Number: 10/747,682  
Art Unit: 2446

Page 14